Tell It To Old Grandma

Advertiser

NEGRO SWIMMING POOL

Editor, The Advertiser:

In your Sunday paper, May 25th, you carried a letter to the editor stating there was a great need in Montgomery for a place where the colored youth might learn to swim. Montgomery, Ala.

The writer of this article was evidently unaware of the new and large swimming pool that has been built on West Fifth Street between Hall and Pine Leaf to supply just such a need. This pool will be open to the colored population of Montgomery on June 1st, and is of more than ample size to take care of all of the people of this race that might care to swim therein. There will be an instructor at the pool who can teach any colored boys, as well as adults, who might desire to learn the art of swimming.

This pool is located on a large tract of land and has sufficient space to afford other amusement facilities also. The people of Montgomery are fortunate in having such a pool for its colored citizens. The writer has been reliably informed that this is the best colored swimming pool in the State of Alabama. Indeed, it has been said that it is the best one between Atlanta and New Orleans for the colored race.

This pool after opening on June 1st, will remain open all summer from 9 a.m. until midnight, every day in the week.

I write this since in the letter to the editor carried in your columns of May 25th, it was stated that the people of Montgomery should have a feeling of responsibility for the recent tragedy of three colored children being drowned in the Alabama River. Certainly this swimming pool is the answer to any responsibility the citizens of Montgomery might feel in this regard.

GEORGE "SONNY" WEAVER.

Cascade Plunge, 16 West Fifth Street, Montgomery. Ala. 30-61

Activities For Negroes Directed By Coach Watson

44

By J. B. Hylick

A community which has a completely coordinated recreation program throughout the year is doing for its citizens a great good. A year round program has been in effect at the Fair Street school since 1945.

There are several activities offered in the program last year and the year before with several additional activities now going on. The two years in which the program operated a very few boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 16 were locked up by the policemen. The Chief of Police states that he is having less trouble now with the colored boys and girls than previously.

Gainesville Eagle-News
March 6, 1947

In June, 1946, the summer recreation program went into full swing, Coach Watson, director of physical education at the high school gave to the program much of his valuable time, and quite a bit of equipment.

During the eleven weeks' program for the summer, 500 youths participated each week in playground activities, hobbies, crafts, sports, and social recreation.

Some swimming was done when the boys were taken on hikes to the river. The negroes have been looking for a swimming pool which was mentioned in the local papers sometime ago.

Summer school was conducted by some of the regular teachers of the school. It provided direct help and individual instruction for children of the regular school and out of school children.

During the present month, our boys and girls are now playing basketball. Just a few weeks from now, our track season will start. There has been organized a very good basketball team for the school boys.

Volleyball and basketball are played by adults as well as by the young people. In the program, we have started skating on the new sidewalk in front of the school building. Plans are on the way to draw various courts for games on this new sidewalk. It is hoped that the program will help raise the idea of pleasure and lift the moral and spiritual values of the negroes here in Gainesville, as such is being done in other cities.

All who deal with young people, especially of high school age, realize the great need for bodily activity.

Recreation involving physical activity has important contributions for body growth, physical health, and mental health. It can also be organized and directed to help develop the social habits and ideals of the participants.

So desirable are these objectives that a community may well consider its recreation program largely in terms of their achievement.

It is true that a number of forward looking schools have, in recent years, expanded their playgrounds to meet the requirements of a good program of recreation or physical education.

Because of this need a program of active learning through physical education is being prepared for all high school students at Fair Street school. Of course, the students excused by the doctors will be excused from the program's rigid games and exercises.

"I think physical education is that branch of education which makes it possible for an individual to adjust himself more readily than any other branch of education." John Dewey says: "We learn by doing."

The recreation council for the program is furnishing coaches to assist personnel available for the program. The snack bar has been opened to the community all year, and during the summer was managed by students. Several times during the summer program, special dances took place in the auditorium adjoining the snack bar. Orchestra and juke box provided the music for the dancing.

Several schools are planning to have baseball or soft ball teams this summer and it is hoped that this program will continue to include such games and compete in competitive sports with other cities. There is a city baseball team for the adults. This program's activiites aid in buying uniforms for the adults' baseball team.

We have talked enough about illiteracy and now, it is time to do something about it. Our children can rise now higher than we lift them, and our community can be no better than we, its citizens, make it.

The reputation of Negroes in Gainesville, is what someone says about them but the character of the Negroes in Gainesville is not what someone says about them, it is what they are.

What must we do to rid our community of ignorance?

1. See that our children go to school every day.
2. Check their report card every report period.
3. See to it that your children have their breakfast before coming to school each morning.
4. See that your children get 10 hours of sleep each night.
5. Do not send your children to Sunday school and church all of the time by themselves, instead take them most of the time.

I believe these suggestions will at least help get rid of ignorance. Don't you?

To do something about juvenile delinquency, there must be provided in the community constructive activities and leadership.

It is the policy of the Fair Street School recreation program to operate in harmony with the churches and all other organizations of the city. All age groups are treated on an equal basis, and it is incumbent upon all of them that they conduct themselves with regard for the rights and privileges of others.

The program assures both young and old the opportunity to secure the best and most satisfying use of leisure time. We are determined to have this program serve most of the people in the community.

Columbus, Ga., Enquirer-Sun
March 28, 1947

Negro Recreational Center Development Plans Outlined

Detailed plans of a long-range development program which will transform the Woodland Park area into "the finest Negro recreation center in the South" have been announced by P. B. (Pop) Austin, athletic director for the city recreation department.

"This is one of the most beautiful natural spots for a park I've ever seen", Mr. Austin asserted." Its natural beauty is awaiting only development and the area can be made into the Negro recreation spot of the South."

Impetus was given the development program recently when the city donated the abandoned incinerator building adjacent to the park site for use as a Negro community center. Mr. Austin stated that the initial phase of the project was already underway with the construction of a regulation base ball field.

Will Be Activated Soon

The athletic field is located at the far end of the 25-acre tract and is scheduled to be activated "in a few weeks".

"A back stop will be put up and the field will be in use in the next two or three weeks", Mr. Austin said. "It is one of the few fields in this section running from north to south, which gives the maximum vision without sun glare."

By the time the summer months roll around picnic facilities will be installed in the lake-dotted park area and plans are underway for the construction of an outdoor skating and dancing area next to the proposed community center building, it was pointed out.

The area will be paved and lighted for night activities by flood-lights attached to the side of the recreation building.

'Pitching Golf Course'

Meanwhile, work has already started on an eight-hole "pitching golf course," which will be available to Negro golf enthusiasts free of charge and will be located adjacent to the lake section and directly behind the community building.

This portion of the park site contains a series of small lakes which could be utilized for boating and which do much to enhance the natural beauty of the area. The miniature lakes were originally clay pits dug by a brick manufacturing concern that operated in the vicinity of the park at one time.

The lakes are not suitable for swimming and the long-range development program calls for the construction of a concrete swimming pool in the park, Mr. Austin said.

The construction of the pool and the conversion of the incinerator building into a community center pends the sale of the city's $1,800,000 bond issue, which includes funds for the expansion of Negro recreational facilities, and the availability of material and labor at a reasonable price, City Manager Marshall Morton has pointed out.

Furnace Removal Planned

The largest job in the transformation of the building into a first-class Negro recreation center will be the removal of the incinerator furnace which occupies practically the entire ground floor.

Once the furnace has been removed and the interior of the building painted and reconditioned in general, the structure will bear no resemblance to the smelly, smoky building that automatically comes to mind with the mention of the word incinerator.

The main floor will be re-surfaced an dtransformed into a gymnasium while the ground floor will be converted into a recreational center for community activities, with office space for directors, Mr. Austin stated, adding that the walls and ceilings will be re-painted throughout the building.

Mr. Austin said that the recreation department plans to eventually equip the park with tennis courts and also facilities for horse shoes, paddle tennis and other popular recreational pastimes and predicted that the overall development program would require approximately five years.

Savannah Ga. News
April 26, 1947

Colored Newspaperman Gets City Position

J. Carroll Stithe, colored news- $200 a month. Appointment has been appointed an assistant superintendent of play-

Meanwhile, work has already started on, an eight-hole "pitching golf course," which will be available to Negro golf enthusiasts free of charge and will be located adjacent to the lake section and directly behind the community building.

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recreation Center at a salary of $125 a month was also announced.

Mr. Kinney said the new colored officials are planning a big opening for the pool and center next week. The Mayor, Aldermen and Police Court Recorder Emanuel Lewis have been invited to participate in the program for the opening.

Preliminary to the opening of the pool the buildings are being painted and repaired and the street back of the pavilion cleared to allow parking space for cars.

J. W. McGlockton, chairman of the colored advisory committee to the Mayor, conferred with Mayor Kennedy yesterday relative to the recreational program.

city, [illegible] was an-
for the
esterday by John W. Kinney,
of the City Recreation Com-
Colored Recre-
swimming pool
chairman of the
mission.
Mr. Kinney
serve under
Bounds, will al-
grounds for
nounced yesterd
chairman of the
mission.
Mr. Kinney said Stithe, who will
serve under Superintendent H. S.
Bounds, will also be director of the
Colored Recreational Center and
swimming pool. His salary will be
$200 a month.
Appointment
has been appointed an
assistant superintendent of play-

NEGRO PARK DEVELOPMENT SITE—Pictured at the top is the city's abandoned incinerator building, just off Glade road near Manley Taylor school, which will be completely overhauled and converted into a first-class Negro community center in line with the long-range development program underway at Woodland park. The bottom photo shows a portion of the park's lake section, which recreation officials say furnishes the area with "a natural beauty that awaits only development." Enquirer Staff Photos.

Savannah, Ga. Press
May 3, 1947

NEGRO CENTER TO BE OPENED SUNDAY

MAYOR KENNEDY WILL BE SPEAKER AT EXERCISES

Exercises opening the city recreation center for negroes will be held tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. Principal speaker for the occasion will be Mayor John G. Kennedy.

Nine negro policemen, who today were administered the oath of office, will be present at the exercises and will be introduced to the assembly, J. W. McGlockton, master of ceremonies, announced this afternoon.

The program follows:

Master of ceremonies, J. W. McGlockton; pianist, Prof. Peter Smalls; song, "America," audience; invocation, Rev. S. A. Baker; "Welcome," Dr. M. P. Sessoms; solo, "Invictus," Edward B. Law; address, Mayor John G. Kennedy; short talks, Wilson Hubert, Judge Emanuel Lewis, W. S. Scott, Sr., Chief J. W. Rogers, Herbert C. Skinner and B. S. Adams; greetings from seevral organizations.

The recreation center, formerly the SSSS for military personnel, is located at Thirty-seventh street and the Ogeechee road. The center will be open for recreational purposes for the negro public from 3 o'clock until 7 o'clock each afternoon, it was announced.

Washington Park

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Sorely Overcrowded

Sat. 6-28-47

By MARION E. JACKSON

Atlanta's Washington Park, long the mecca for recreational activities, has played host to so many thousands of playgoers in recent years that its facilities have been taxed to the breaking point.

The lone park operated by the city for a population of 130,000 Negroes, it has at the same time been the foremost recreational outlet for citizens of the State of Georgia.

T. R. Walker, Washington Park manager, states that the park was originally built to serve the recreational needs of the citizens of Atlanta. Even with this demand, the ficilities were only adequate to serve the section bound by Hunter and Sompson Roads.

Playgoers from Forsyth, Fayetteville, Marietta, Rome and virtually every section of the state converge on the park each week-end. As a result the park is only able to utilize a smattering its facilities and workers for organized play.

JUNE PEAK MONTH

The peak month for picnics, outings and spectator sports is June. Bad weather and a late spring however point to a record peak attenddance in July and August.

Churches, schools, and clubs sponsor picnics, barbecues and swimming parties weekly resulting in an overflow crowd of thousands. Holidays like the 4th of July and Labor Day, bring additional thousands pouring in above the already over-taxed peak load. Sat. 6-28-47

Mr. Walker points out that a growth in residential construction and an influx of new residents into the Washington Park area has virutally doomed any hope for expansion to the already existing facilities at the park.

Citing the fact that swimming and bath-house facilities long ago reached their maximum the only solution to present week-day mobs gathering for play activities would be the strategical location of another comparable park facility in the Southwest section of the city.

Horace Johnson, who serves as a recreation leader at Washington Park, is the most widely-used facility in the city. Softball games and scheduled baseball games bring record-breaking crowds, which he believes scarcely can be duplicated at any park, which lacks bleachers for the spectators to sit. The city has not provided bleachers for the park so spectators must stand or sit on the ground while watching games. Baseball games are scheduled daily but all softball games are played at night.

CULTURAL POSSIBILITY

Albert Flanders, another recreation assistant believes that with a bandstand, pavilion, and an ampitheatre, Washington Park might become a cultural factor in the play activities of the nation.

The old pavilion (which used to serve as a dance hall) burned many years ago. No effort has been made to restore it. An ampitheatre would emphasize operettas, pageants, musicals and drama, which could be performed out of doors to the larger audiences than any local indoor setting could provide. Sat. 6-28-47

STRATEGICALLY-LOCATED

Mr Flanders believes that four parks in the Summerhill, Pittsburgh and the Hunter-Simpson, Fair-Hunter areas, would relieve the stranglehold that the city and state have on Washington Park.

There are nine softball teams in the Park Basketball League. All must play at Washington Park, although they represent different sections of the city. The Royal Knights are from Summerhill. The Ted Lewis Softball Team is from Pittsburgh. Lampkins Bros. and Clean-well are from the Auburn Ave. area. The Yellow Jackets hail from Davis St. Broadnax, A. & M. Atlanta General Department. and Park Shoe Shop are from the Westside.

FEMALE INACTIVITY

A pavilion and an ampitheatre would give girls and women a greater recreational outlet as Washington Park, according to Mrs. Ruth L. Jackson, supervisor of women and girl activities for the Atlanta Park and Recreation Board.

Noting that since the old Washington Park Pavilion burned several years ago virtually no shelter has been available for women at the park. As a result recreation for girls and women has declined at the park.

Notwithstanding this fact, a daily program designed to interest young girls and mothers, is scheduled. Mrs. Jackson, pointed out however, with a pavilion, an ampitheatre dramas, musicals, singing contests, band concerts and operettas would draw additional thousands.

Revealing that four new facilities were under consideration for Negroes of this city, Mrs. Jackson believes that such new park facilities would take the load and strain off of Washington Park. Sat. 6-28-47

TRANSIENTS

Many gather at the park daily could be intergrated into a sports from over the state. Since most of program that would include women these thousands represent transient softball, tennis and swimming teams, participants and spectators, pro- as well as handicraft programs such grammed musicals and plays would as weaving, basket-making, flowerbe some solution to the handling of making, sewing, etc.

the crowd until the city constructs Yet, story-telling, sculpturing, and additional park facilities. simple handicraft are daily pro-

Pointing out that with parks spread out over the city, women grammed beginning at 2 p. m. for the neighborhood children.

Green Signs Bill For Camp

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Illinois

$30,000 Site To Aid Under-privileged

Sat-8-16-47

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Gov. Dwight H. Green last week signed House Bill 730, introduced by Rep. Charles J. Jenkins of Chicago, which appropriates $30,000 for the creation of a camp for under-privileged children adjacent to Illini State Park, across the Illinois River from Marseilles.

The project has been sponsored by the Illinois Association of Community Committees, the Colored Big Brothers, and the Southside Boys Club.

The new law authorizes the division of parks to modernize a former CCC camp to provide adequate and comfortable accommodations for groups of children. A sewerage system and other improvements will be installed and a swimming pool will be provided.

The State Department of Public Welfare will approve a list of organizations to whom the camp will be leased by the State Division of Parks for the use of various groups of children.

Negroes Want Standard Club Area In 1950

Approach Board Of Water Company

Ye Ole Bourbon Club, a Negro social organization, is seeking to lease the golf course and country club on Upper River Road at Zorn Avenue now occupied by the Standard Club.

Standard's lease from the owner, the Louisville Water Company, expires in 1950. The lease has a one-year extension option in case Standard's new club building and grounds on Old Brownboro Road and Barbour Lane are not ready in 1950.

Must Take Best Bid.

Henry M. Gerber, Water Company president, said that when Standard's lease expired the company will be "compelled to accept the best bid" for the property.

Gerber said he thought the Standard Club property would be ideal for a recreation area in connection with the proposed Veterans Administration hospital which is to be built atop bluffs just south of the Standard Club. However, the V.A. has not proposed to buy or rent the lower land, he said.

Request Taken to Board.

Three spokesmen for the Negro group made their request to the Water Company board. They are M. M. Bonner, 614 W. Walnut, real-estate dealer; D. W. Beard, 741 S. Hancock, manager of the Sheppard Square municipal housing project, and Dr. J. H. Walls, 1631 W. Jefferson, physician and president of the club.

Bonner, the group spokesman, said they "fee lsomewhat encouraged" although the ygot no commitments from the Water Company. His whole committee plans a meeting next week to look into the project further.

He said his club was made up of a "select group" of about 120 members, including numerous business an dprofessional men.

44 1947

NEGRO EDUCATORS ATTEND RECREATION CONGRESS

44 Black Dispatch, Mpls. Kansas City Oklahoma

NEW YORK — (ANP) — The 29th National Recreation congress convened at Hotel New Yorker this week for a hectic five-day session. Some 35 or more individual conferences were held on specific recreation problems and techniques in all its various aspects. One thousand specialists in the field attended under auspices of the National Rrcreational association. Howard Braucher is president of the association and Ernest T. Atwell, James A. Madison and Grace Walker all on the national staff work diligently in Negro communities.

North Carolina

A. H. Peeler, principal of the J. C. Price Elementary School in Greensboro, N. C., was named last week as the first Negro member of the Greensboro Recreation Commission. He has been active in recreation in the city since 1931 and was for several years connected with the recreation program of the city.

Greensboro Leader Named To Group On Recreation

STAFF CORRESPONDENCE

GREENSBORO, N. C. — Widespread satisfaction was being voiced here last week following the appointment of A. H. Peeler, principal of the J. C. Price School as the first Negro member of the recreation commission.

The move by the local city council was seen as a move toward further integration of Negroes into policy-making positions of the city. Previously a Negro advisory committee represented the race in matters of recreation.

The appointment of Peeler followed on the request made by Councilman Tom Brown who called attention to the need for Negro representation when the names of nine members to the commission were presented and elected. Following his suggestion, the council then decided to name two additional members, one of them a Negro.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Mr. Peeler is native of Greensboro and has been principal of the Price School for fourteen years. Prior to assuming this position he was principal at the Jonesboro School. His teaching experience has been at the Dudley High school and in Winston-Salem, N. C. His father, Dr. S. A. Peeler, is a former president of Bennett College.

Mr. Peeler is a graduate of Morehouse College and holds the master's degree from Columbia University. He has studied also at the University of Wisconsin, Ohio State University and N. C. College.

When interviewed last week by the Journal and Guide, Mr. Peeler recalled the first moves made locally for a recreation program among Negroes. He said the matter first came to attention during a principal's meeting in 1931 at at which time the problem of broken windows at the Washington Street School was being discussed.

PARK INVESTIGATION

Out of this meeting grew an investigation of the Nocho Park property which had been set aside years before as a recreation area. Later a citizens committee was appointed on recreation and a summer program was instituted. Long term plans for Nocho Park were drawn up at the time and have to a large degree been followed.

Mr. Peeler served as part-time director of Negro recreation from that time until 1934 when a full-time director was named. Leaving this post, he continued his interest as a member of the Negro advisory committee until 1942.

A Need And A Challenge Too Long Neglected

CIRCUMSTANCES surrounding the appointment a few weeks ago of a Negro to the Recreation Commission in Greensboro, N. C., underline a dire need. That is the need in each community for a unified and potent agency of Negro opinion which may be called upon and will exert its influence when necessary to improve the common lot.

The desire for Negro representation on the recreation body had been indicated to the Greensboro City Council several months previously, when suddenly a decision was made to appoint a race man to the commission, which is the policy-making body for the city's recreation program.

The initial request was made to members of the council by individuals and in the months which followed there was no followup and Negro citizens the appointment might have been governing body reached its favorable decision. Consequently there was no consensus of opinion on the person who should receive the appointment.

Fortunately, in a series of hasty conferences and exchanges of opinion among several citizens who bestirred themselves as individuals, a man was agreed upon who received the wholehearted support of the Negro citizenry. But for the civic interest shown by a small group of individual Negro citizens the appointment might hive been a political layoff for someone less qualified for the position.

This deplorable state of affairs is acknowledged in many Negro communities by colored citizens who "gripe" about it but take no positive action and by white citizens who use it as they attempt to explain and justify their failure to give recognition to Negro citizens.

These latter groups, when faced with criticism of their actions on questions involving racial matters, hastily retort that there is great division within the Negro community which results in their not having sufficient and organized advice nor a source which may be tapped to secure majority Negro opinion.

In far too many instances the white man's answer, reported above, is logical—and accurate.

If he turns to his Chamber of Commerce or other civic body to be advised on qualified Negroes for appointment to a civic or community service agency, the information he needs is not available. If he then looks around to find a Negro organization which may be considered to reflect and represent Negro mass opinion he faces a problem as difficult as finding the proverbial "needle in the haystack."

His next move is usually one of calling in a Negro citizen simply because he "knows" the individual. Hence his appointee may be a man who can do the job—but he may also be a man who does not have and cannot give leadership to the group as is expected by those who "select" him.

The power to correct this situation which undermines and retards community relationships lies squarely in the hands of the colored Americans who are challenged to unify their forces for concerted action and for recognition which will come when they themselves have demonstrated their unity

Parks (Alabama)

City's Negro Park System Fails To Meet Needs Of Congested Areas Of School Children

The Birmingham News

(44 Parks (Ala.)

BY JERRY BRYAN

Birmingham's parks and playgrounds program dips to its low-est level in Negro recreation. A survey of city Negro parks offers conflicting evidence. Its paucity exceeds the general low established by the adequate citywide program, that is true. But in quality of leadership the Negro program excells that of the white parks. This strange condition emphasizes the possibilities of a strong city Negro recreation program. Given the opportunity with more parks and more equipment the goal can be achieved.

Birmingham has seven parks, five city owned and two leased, under supervision in its Negro playground system. This is at least by three too few. It is too few in ratio of population and too few for geographical coverage. With the ratio of population roughly 60-40 white the park ratio is 21-7. Memphis with almost the exact ratio and a city population closely parallel has 20 white and 10 Negro parks. Nashville with about a 65-35 break and nearly 100,000 less in population has 24 white and 12 Negro playground under supervision.

Atlanta with about the same race ratio as Nashville has 25 white and 10 Negro playground. New Orleans falls even below Birmingham in its provision for its Negro population with 30 white playgrounds and six Negro.

Third Of Park Series

This is the third article of a series on city parks and recreation. Information was compiled through the aid of Park Board officials, a personal survey of the parks and visits to other cities.

King Sparks, superintendent of Park and Recreation Board, and Bill Battle, athletic director, Birmingham-Southern College, are serving with the writer on a recreation committee appointed by Dr. B. F. Sapienza, chairman of athletic affair committee, Chamber of Commerce.

* * *

THE MOST CONGESTED area of Negro school children in the city is utterly devoid of a suggestion of a playground. Bounded on the west by Center Street, south by Cotton Avenue, north by Village Creek and east by 16th Street is an area in which nearly 5,000 school age Negro children are jammed. In no other section of the city, either white or Negro, is the concentration of school children so heavy. Smithfield Center is in the middle of this vast stretch of teen-age population but no organized recreation program is being carried on there at this time. In the northern reaches of the area on Enon Ridge civic-minded citizens have hired leaders for a program at Tuggle.

* * *

IN A SQUARE BOUNDED on the west by 10th Street, on the south by Eighth Avenue, South, on the east by 20th Street and on the north by Second Avenue, South, nearly 2,000 school-age Negro children live without a supervised city playground.

* * *

JUST TO THE EAST OF THIS SECTOR is an area of about the same proportions, south of Second Avenue, South; east of 22nd Street; including Southtown on the South and over to 33rd Street on the East, approximately 1,800 school children reside with no playground.

These are three of the most glaring breakdowns in the city Negro park setup. But there are others.

* * *

IN A COMPACT AREA of a few blocks north of Stockham Pipe & Fitting Company plant in East Birmingham are nearly 1,200 school children without a city program. Stockham runs a small playground for the Negroes near the plant.

* * *

PROBABLY THE MOST TIGHTLY PACKED little island of all is an area of about 15 square blocks east of Sloss Furnaces, bounded on the south by First Avenue, west by the Belt Railroad, east by 57th Street and north by the L. & N. Railroad. In here more than 1,700 children live—no playgrounds available.

Staffing the sveen parks under leadership are grade school and high school teachers apparently well qualified for their assignments. In this respect the playground program is strong. Three of the playgrounds are under male leadership, the only male playground leaders in the city system.

Of the seven Tuxedo is the gem. Boasting the only Negro swimming pool in the system and with huge oaks for shade in the picnic area this installation is the most popular, attracting 5,000 children and picnickers to the park in peak months.

* * *

BOTH MEMORIAL AND McALPINE have the potentials of fine play areas. Ample space and well laid-out terrain provide natural facilities for excellent centers. McAlpine has a small club house on the grounds with room for ping-pong game tables, a storage room and toilet facilities. In this respect the park ranks high in the Park Board system for mere toilet facilities are lacking on all parks where community center buildings are not located.

Memorial is strategically located on Avenue F at Fifth Street, West. Plenty of room is provided for baseball and softball diamonds. There are tennis courts. It is featured by vast expanse of treeless terrain. Civic-minded Negroes of the Titusville section have wrestled with plans to develop this park. The South Elyton Civic League headed by Clarence Price as president has been one of the leading organizations in this work. One of the projects called for purchase of a Quonset hut for a field house. This would provide floor space of 120 feet by 40, ample room for quiet games. It would not be suitable for basketball. It would require an outlay of approximately $6,000. The ultimate planning for this park is a good field house and a swimming pool. Attendance records show that only Tuxedo in the city system outdraws Memorial

* * *

SLOSSFIELD IS AN EXCELLENT INSTALLATION with community house, baseball field and plenty of playfield space. This was developed during the war largely through WPA funds.

MacLin is an attractive park but small, while Pratt City, one of the leased parks, is a sunbaked square of bare ground, unforbiding and desolate. Groveland is in operation through a temporary arrangement with Greater Payne College on the college campus. Large shade trees provide a splendid park atmosphere and room for a softball diamond is provided.

Construction of necessary buildings and provision for adequate equipment would place the five parks owned by the city in A class. Pratt City would be salvaged only with a lot of work and an excellent building.

Parks (Arkansas)

Little Rock Wants Negroes To Buy $200,000 Park For Whites To Run

Chicago, Ill. Defender Sat. 5-31-47

Sat. 5-31-47

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — (ANP)—For the second time Negro citizens here have been asked to support, to the tune of $200,000, a park which will be planned and managed by whites.

...ng plan with great suspicion is that in 1934 the city issued $15,000 in bonds to buy 497 acres in Gillam Park. Negroes were then assured they would be given the completed park if they voted the bond issue.

Never Deliver Park

However, after the federal government had already spent $40,000 on the project, the city's 1940 Mayor, H. V. Satterfield, found that the city did not have a right-of-way to the highway to the park. It also developed that a new means of reaching the site was too near the Confederate Home, and its seven inmates. The park was never completed and turned over to the Negro people.

The present project calls for the Negro citizens by public subscription to raise the greater part of the $200,000, but for the city to supervise it thereafter.

Land Once Offered Free

At one time the Methodist board offered the land to the city free for this purpose. Now it is for sale for $75,000, a price which will be cut to $55,000 if the land is actually

The present project has been launched by a group of white clergymen who seek to purchase a 40-acre tract of Philander Smith College property owned by the General Education Board of the Methodist Church.

Mayor Scores County 'Renege' on Negro Parks

Mayor William B. Hartsfield Friday had sharply criticized county offiicals for failure to live up to an agreement which he said had been made to finance the construction of two new Negro parks.

Citing an announcement by Commissioner R. L. (Shorty) Doyal at Wednesday's meeting of the county commission that the county had not made an agreement to share the cost of constructing the parks on a 50-50 basis, the mayor declared:

"When the bond issue was first proposed, the bond planning commission agreed to allocate $1,000,000 to the county for parks improvement, and $500,000 to the city for the same purpose.

"Since the great necessity for Negro parks lies within the city, where most of the Negroes live, a series of conferences were held between city officials, R. L. MacDougall, of the bond commission, and leaders of the Negro race. We were assured by all present that the county commissioners had agreed to share the cost of building two parks for Negroes on a 50-50 basis, and that the city would thereafter operate them at its own expense."

The mayor said that the only government which had done anything for the Negro race was the city government."

county fair treatment for the Atlanta taxpayers?

"Of course the county has some jails, correction and charitable institutions for Negroes, most of which are financed by Atlanta taxes, but the Negroes have only one small park, and that is operated by the city."

The mayor declared that when bonds were voted Negroes were promised two small parks to be built jointly by the city and county in two sections chosen by a committee of Negro leaders. The city thereafter would bear the cost of operating them.

"The chairman of the citizens bond commission, Mr. R. L. MacDougall, understood this," the mayor declared, "as well as the then chairman of the county park committee, Mr. Ellis Barrett."

The county, he said, was given one million dollars for parks, while the city has $500,000 for the purpose. "Yet we were willing to make this agreement and now stand ready to carry it out if the county will only keep their promise," Mr. Hartsfield added.

The mayor resented Mr. Doyal's attack on city administration. "As to the county helping us with the waterworks," he said, "they dig a few ditches for the city and in return get free water service for all county institutions and fire-fighting water in over 200 square miles of county territory."

"Nothing seems to enrage a County Commissioner more than the suggestion that a little something be done inside the City of Atlanta," Hartsfield said in reiterating his contention that all parties at interest understood that the two governments would share the expense on a 50-50 basis.

"Why must city officials get the run-around and finally be subjected to abuse and vituperation every time we seek from the County fair treatment for Atlanta taxpayers?" Hartsfield asked in reply to an attack against him by R. L. (Shorty) Doyal, Fulton Commissioner, who has denied an agreement to share the expense.

Hartsfield pointed out that although Atlanta's bond money for parks use was limited to $500,000, just one-half the County issue for the same purpose, the city was ready and anxious to proceed to establish the two Negro parks in accordance with the agreement reached before bonds were authorized last August.

Mayor Asks Public Help In Negro Park Fight

Mayor Hartsfield's battle with the Fulton County Commission over Negro parks went another inning Sunday as he appealed to citizens to force the Commission to spend more bond funds.

"When the bonds were voted, it was understood that the County was to put up one-half the cost of two small parks for Negroes and the City would operate them," Hartsfield said. The parks would cost $500,000.

"Mr. Robert MacDougald, Chairman of the Citizens' Bond Commission, understood it as well as Mr. Ellis Barrett, formerly of the County Commission, and also Professor C. L. Harper, representing the Negro citizens."

The County was said to have allotted $100,000 of $1,000,000 in bond funds set aside for parks, while the City has agreed to spend $250,000 of its $500,000 park fund derived from the bond issue.

Earlier, remarks by Hartsfield that "the City is the only local unit of Government that does anything appreciably for the Negroes" were followed by a retort from Commissioner R. L. Doyal outlining extensive services provided exclusively by the County for Negroes.

Mayor Hartsfield Rebuffs County On Park Situation

"Nothing seems to enrage a county commissioner any more than the suggestion that a little something be done inside the City of Atlanta," asserted Mayor Hartsfield Monday in his latest rebuff to Fulton County Commissioner R. L. Doyal over the responsibility of building two new parks for Negroes.

The disagreement emerges from the Mayor's contention that the county agreed to go 50-50 in construction of the parks from the recently passed bond issue Doyal denies, however, that the county ever gave such an impression as claimed by the Mayor.

The Mayor asked Monday: "Why must city officials get the run around and finally be subjected to abuse and vituperation every time we seek from the county fair treatment for the Atlanta taxpayer?"

When the bonds were voted the county promised that Negroes would get two parks, said the Mayor, adding that: they would be built jointly by the city and county in two sections chosen by a committee of Negro leaders. The city thereafter would bear the cost of operation the Mayor pointed out.

One million dollars was given to the county for parks, declared the Mayor, while the city was alloted $500,000 for that purpose. "We were willing to make this agreement and now stand ready to carry it out if the county will only keep their promise," asserted the Mayor.

Mayor Scores Fulton For Stall in Park Aid

Hartsfield, Citing Negro Recreation Plans, Says County 'Ired' When Asked to Help City

Mayor Hartsfield bluntly asserted Monday that "nothing seems to enrage a county commissioner any more than the suggestion that a little something be done inside the City of Atlanta."

The mayor's charge grew out of an exchange of words during the last few days between himself and Fulton County Commissioner R. L. Doyal over the responsibility of building two new Negro parks.

Mr. Hartsfield contends the county agreed to share 50-50 in the construction of two such parks in the city limits from bond funds. Mr. Doyal denied this, and said the mayor misrepresented the facts when he said that the city government was the only government doing anything for the Negroes.

The mayor Monday issued a formal statement in which he asked: "Why must city officials get the run-around and finally be subjected to abuse and vituperation every time we seek from the

Share In Negro Park Construction Atlanta's Council Urges County

City Council Monday backed Mayor Hartsfield in his demand that Fulton County live up to its agreement to provide half the cost of purchasing and equipping two Negro parks in Atlanta.

A resolution offered by Ald. Lee Evans, Chairman of Council's Parks Committee, urged the County to share the expense on a 50-50 basis and to take steps to buy needed properties in the Butler Street and Pittsburgh areas. It was passed without a dissenting vote.

Prior to Council's action, Hartsfield again blasted the Fulton Commission for failing to live up to what he said was a post bond election agreement to share equally the expense of developing two Negro parks.

Negro Park, Playgrounds Planned By Fulton Commission, Doyal Says

Atlanta Constitution Sat. 9-6-47

Atlanta, Ga.

The Fulton County Commission plans to build a park for Negroes in the Simpson Road area and several Negro playgrounds outside Atlanta, Parks Commissioner R. L. Doyal said Friday. Sat. 9-6-47

Commissioner Doyal said plans for Negro recreation would be discussed at a meeting of the Commission with members of the Citizens' Bond and Recreation Committees early next week.

He was reluctant to discuss the plans in detail in the absence of the other Commissioners, Charlie Brown, J. H. Aldredge, Tom Camp and I. Gloer Hailey, and said that in the final decision the Commission would be guided by recommendations of the Bond and Recreation Committees.

Asked about the contention of Mayor Hartsfield that the county agreed to go 50-50 with the city in building two parks for Negroes inside the city, Doyal said:

"We are ready to appropriate $100,000 of the County bond money and to grade both parks if the city will build them. We estimate the grading to be worth $100,000. This is the only definite agreement the Commission had with the city. Sat. 9-6-47

"We followed recommendations of the non-political Citizens' Bond Committee and the non-political Parks and Recreation Committee in reaching this agreement. Naturally, we are trying to make the $800,000 or so available for parks and recreation go as far as possible. If the city doesn't want to go ahead with this agreement, we are willing to build a county park inside the city."

Doyal went on to say that Negroes were moving out of the city into the Simpson Road area in large numbers and the proposed park in that area would serve the greater part of the county's rural Negro population. He pointed out that a park in that section had been recommended by the Grand Jury.

At Last, Some Negro Parks in Prospect

Atlanta Constitution, Ga.

Despite an inability to get together with the County Commission on a co-operative venture, City Council is apparently going ahead with plans for immediate construction of at least one of the badly needed Negro parks in the metropolitan area.

Council's Parks Committee has approved plans for such a facility, to cost approximately $300,000, in Southwest Atlanta. Indications are that the Committee's recommendations will be accepted by Council, even though the county refuses to participate on a 50-50 basis. Sun. 9-7-47

Meanwhile, according to Commissioner Doyal, the County is going ahead on its own with plans for a park in the Simpson Road area. Sun. 9-7-47.

Both these developments are gratifying, although it stands to reason that the projects would profit and the taxpayers save if they could be jointly undertaken.

Still, the need for recreational facilities to curb delinquency in Negro areas is too great to be further postponed pending the millennium of our local politicians' forgetting their petty private feuds in the interest of the community's welfare.

Committee To Work For Spring Opening

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta, Ga. Fri. 9-5-47

The Parks Committee of Atlanta City Council in a meeting Wednesday approved plans for establishing a $300,000 Negro park in the Pittsburg area located in the Southwestern section of Atlanta. The proposed site is reported to cover from 15 to 17 acres and is slated to include such facilities as a swimming pool, bath house, community house, outdoor grills and an athletic field.

Following the Committee's approval, a request is to be made of the City Council in its next meeting, Sept. 15, to ask Mayor William Hartsfield to authorize the employment of a landscape architect to begin mapping plans for the proposed park.

The City Council has already acquired the services of Land Agent H. B. Andrews and authorized him to begin acquisition of the land while the Parks Committee has tentatively agreed on a landscaping and planning contract with W. C. Pauley. Fri. 9-5-47

Alderman Lee Evans, Chairman of the Parks group, in an interview Thursday disclosed that the Committee is going forward with every effort to assure expedient materialization of the proposal. "The park when completed is really going to be a swell park" he added.

OPENING IN SPRING

When asked about the approximate opening date of the park, Alderman Evans asserted that "his committee will do its best to open the park by next spring."

Originally the County had made an agreement with the city to go 50-50 in the construction of two Negro parks within the city upon the passing of a recent bond issue, the Chairman said.

At its first meeting the Parks Committee agreed to allocate $250,000 or one half of its $500,000 bond money for the construction of the two parts said Mr. Evans to match this amount and keep their agreement with the city necessitates the allocation of $250,000 from the county he continued. But the County which received $1,000,000 of the bond money, now refuses to meet its end of the bargain. It contends now that it doesn't have the $250,000 to match with the city and can only allocate $100,000 for such, the Alderman added. Fri. 9-5-47

BUTLER ST. AREA

The Alderman gave assurance that the Parks Committee intends to go farther than just building the Pittsburg park. It has also formulated plans to open an athletic field and play ground in the Butler Street area. All of this will be done regardless of the County's action, he said.

Referring to the County again, Atty. Evans remarked that the County intends to spend $840,000 of its $1,000,000 outside the limits of the city and only $100,000 for parks within the city. Fri. 9-5-47

The County Commission has declined to make comment on the situation.

12-Acre Park Deeded To Georgia Negroes

SAVANNAH, Ga. — A 12-acre park has been deeded to Negroes in Liberty County by John P. Stevens, wealthy Georgian. The park has water frontage for swimming and boating. Sat. 10-11-47

One provision in the grant declares that there shall be no intoxicating liquors, wines or beers sold or consumed on the tract.

RALPH McGILL

We Could Really Be Fair

44 Parks (Ga.)

Atlanta Constitution

This committee representing 25 Atlanta organizations, including some very influential ones, cames around and talked. 9-27-47

They thought it not merely outrageous, but not good common sense, that the political powers of our city and county did not forthrightly go ahead and provide the Negro areas, especially those depressed areas, with public parks. These visitors thought, as must any thoughtful person, that for the county to have justified pride in one of its great million-dollar parks, where the saddle horse-ring alone cost more than $50,000, and to provide no park at all for Negroes, was the height of poor judgment, not to say the height of folly and injustice and also un-American.

I have been a voice crying in that wilderness for a long time, and I think so, too. 9-27-47

I wish those among us who are always so ardent in defense of their own interpretation of Southern traditions would become ardent in defense of one of our traditions—namely, the one which says that we always treat the Negro fairly. We don't and we never have given him a square rattle in education, before the bar of justice or in housing or public parks. We have laws which properly separate the races, but the same laws call for equal accommodations in facilities and in transportation, and we have cheated on that, too. Yet if you begin to discuss such things, the clamor arises about "social equality" and "nigger loving," and the fearful run to cover.

Platform Actually, and somewhat ironically, the recent platform adopted by the Talmadge convention at Macon was one of the most radically pro-Negro platforms ever adopted in Georgia. It took a very forthright position and called for equality of opportunity in education and in law and in public accommodations, such as health, recreation and so on. Were the platform of the Talmadge convention to be carried out, as there is no reason why it should not be carried out, it would mean the most forward progress the Negro in Georgia has known in generations. It would have been much more than he had got during the Arnall administration, for instance, insofar as his personal welfare and opportunity were concerned. I am sure there was little, if any, serious intent on the part of the framers of the platform to carry it out, but it is there, and to carry it out would be not radical but sensible and even economical. 9-27-47

Pattern This story is Atlanta and Fulton County, but it is a pattern for too many Southern cities. We go on with the farce that the Negro, in all these things, is treated fairly.

Then, to further complicate our falsehood, we condemn the Negro slums for producing thieves, prostitutes, drunkenness, individuals who smell foully because they don't bathe (when we know very well the only running water in such places usually is restricted to an out-of-doors tap serving a dozen houses); we read with horror the stories of cutting, shooting and fighting that goes on in those sections and label it all "Nigger." It isn't honest and it costs us much more than would the simple act of justice in doing the fair thing.

The city and the County Commissioners of this, or any other great urban county, can't go on trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored without finally making it necessary for some one to pay the bill. 9-27-47

Disservice We also do our thinking and ourselves and our community a great and dishonest disservice in being so fearful about Communism among the Negroes. One of the startling and mysterious facts is there was, and is, less Communism among the mass of American Negroes than among other elements of our population. The Negro intellectuals have supplied some Communist members, out of an understandable frustration, but the mass of American Negroes has been loyal, patient and hopeful, deserving of much better understanding and justice than they have ever got. I never hear a person expressing fear of Communism among Negroes without wondering if that person has ever asked himself what good reason there has been for the Negro not going Communistic—as he has not.

Records The records show that in the city, where there are a few small, neglected Negro parks, the number of persons using them is greater than the total using all the other parks. There is no park in the county or city with picnic facilities, no place where Negro parents wishing to take themselves and their children for an outing, can go. We have been very hypocritical in saying that while we keep the races separated as the best policy, we do give the Negro a fair deal.

We then compound that falsehood, and do our own thinking and communities great harm, by wondering that the crowded Negro slums produce murder, cuttings, prostitution, brawls and persons are ragged and dirty and who dont' smell like Chanel No. 5.

Why don't we quit double talk and stalling and go ahead and do the fair and the decent thing about parks.

KENTUCKY STATE PARKS OPEN TO ALL CITIZENS

Chicago Defender, Chicago Ill.

FRANKFORT, Ky.—(ANP)—Kentucky's Negro citizens are permitted to enjoy facilitties of all state parks, said Attorney Gerald Eldon S. Dummit here last week in response to a query from Fletcher P. Martin, city editor of the Louisville Defender.

"Section 187 of the constitution of Kentucky provides that separate schools for white and colored children shall be maintained," Dummit wired Martin. "This section has the approval of both state and federal court of last resort. 7-26-47

There is no provision in the state constitution or the state statutes that prohibits people from entering state-owned parks," the attorney general said. Sat. 7-26-47

A suit is pending to open all city parks to Negroes.

Asheville, N. C. Citizen
June 20, 1947

Site On Walton Street Chosen For Negro Pool

(44)

Development of the five-acre Riverview park area on Walton street as a Negro Recreation park with a swimming pool and bathhouse at a cost of approximately $22,500 was authorized yesterday in a resolution passed by the city council. Work is expected to start immediately on excavation for the pool.

The pool itself will be 40 by 100 feet with a fenced in enclosure around the pool 150 by 200 feet to provide beach room.

The estimated cost of $22,500 includes a certain amount of landscaping work to make the park attractive and is about equally divided between the cost of the pool itself and the bathhouse, it was explained.

Location of the pool was announced after the city council and city manager had exhausted a number of possibilities in various sections of the city. Some of these were not available at any price and some were not considered suitable for the purpose. The final decision of the council was that the Walton street area, which has five acres of high rolling land, offered by far the best possibilities for park development.

The council received the report of J. Y. Jordan, Jr., chairman of the Asheville Boxing commission, on the work of the commission in supervising the holding of boxing and wrestling bouts at the city auditorium. Mr. Jordan reported that wrestling did not work out so well, but that boxing had been firmly established as an attraction.

A new commission is scheduled to be elected at the next meeting of the council on Thursday. With Mr. Jordan on the present commission are Paul Pitillo and Clarence Crawford.

A new board of electrical examiners for the city was named in a resolution passed by the council. On the board are: M. B. Haynes, W. P. Moore, and R. G. Thyse. Also on the board as ex-officio members are C. T. Johnson and C. H. Gudger.

Philip Cocke, Jr., attorney for Walter Goodman, presented the council with a claim for $25,000 for alleged personal injuries.

Little Rock Wants Negroes To Buy $200,000 Park For Whites To Run

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — (ANP)—For the second time Negro citizens here have been asked to support, to the tune of $200,000, a park which will be planned and managed by whites.

The present project has been launched by a group of white clergymen who seek to purchase a 40-acre tract of Philander Smith College property owned by the General Education Board of the Methodist Church.

Present reason why some view the plan with great suspicion is that in 1934 the city issued $15,000 in bonds to buy 497 acres in Gillam Park. Negroes were then assured they would be given the completed park if they voted the bond issue.

Never Deliver Park

However, after the federal government had already spent $40,000 on the project, the city's 1940 Mayor, H. V. Satterfield, found that the city did not have a right-of-way to the highway to the park. It also developed that a new means of reaching the site was too near the Confederate Home, and its seven inmates. The park was never completed and turned over to the Negro people.

The present project calls for the Negro citizens by public subscription to raise the greater part of the $200,000, but for the city to supervise it thereafter.

Land Once Offered Free

At one time the Methodist board offered the land to the city free for this purpose. Now it is for sale for $75,000, a price which will be cut to $55,000 if the land is actually used for a park for Negro citizens.

The remainder of the fund will be used for a $70,000 gymnasium or field house; $35,000, landscaping; $40,000, swimming pool.

Says Park a "Must"

The Rev. D. M. Mann, white Methodist pastor who heads the project committee says that the park is a present "must" because "25 per cent of the people have no recreational facilities."

The plan is backed by the Mayor's advisory committee, and by W. B. Bass, director of the local Urban League. In addition, colored social workers, the PTA, Colored Teachers Association, Bronze League, Negro Chamber of Commerce, and Ministerial Alliance are said to be backing the drive.

Opposition includes the local real estate board, Engineer Director Edward G. Webster of the City Planning Commission, and a committee appointed by the Mayor. They say the city needs first four smaller community centers for Negro children and then a larger family park.

Parks (South Carolina)

Charleston, S. C.
July 30, 1947

State Park for Negroes Near Cheraw Is Opened

CHERAW, July 29. Special: The Cheraw state park for negroes was opened Sunday at Campbell's pond five miles north of Patrick, with an estimated crowd of 400.

According to Richard L. Horton, superintendent of the Cheraw state park, the area of this new recreational center was recently assigned to Cheraw state park by the South Carolina forestry division for establishment of this park for the negroes.

The negro veterans of Cheraw have been busy for the past few weeks clearing land and putting up buildings in preparation for Sunday's opening. The new park comes under the general supervision of the Cheraw state park, but it has its own park superintendent, Harry Watson. There are adequate swimming and bath house facilities and picnic shelters. A qualified life guard will be on duty at the lake.

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Columbia Record
Columbia, S. C.
Date 7-30-47

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Negroes Win Fight For Lake Front Park

Okla. City, Okla.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — (ANP) —A five-year fight for a Negro park on the lake front here ended victoriously last week when a resolution was adopted by the Knox County court to lease the Fort Loudoun reservior site in the vicinity of Lowe's Ferry for recreational purposes from the federal government through the Tennessee Valley authority.

Sat. 1-17-47

A 45,000 budget was appropriated for the improvement and maintenance of the park site. By terms of the resolution, the county judge is "hereby authorized and directed to enter into a lease agreement, or preferably, an acquisition of title agreement or otherwise with the United States of America through the TVA, its agent, for the development and operation by Knox county of a recreational area in Fort Loudoun reservior in the vicinity of Lowe's Ferry, known and designed as Lowe's Ferry park in Knox county by the TVA, for public recreational use. . ."

Black Dispatch

Atty. C. A. Cowan is the only Negro member of the court. The park site is one of the most beautiful on the lake front, according to local residents.

The Highway

44 (D.C.)

The Afro-American

by Charles H. Houston

At Warder Street and Otis Pl. N.W., Washington is a large city playground with swings and other play apparatus, surrounded by a high fence. Originally, under the segregated pattern of the District of Columbia, it had been set up and maintained as a playground for white children. But the neighborhood has changed, and the community is now predominantly colored. 10-4-47

Very few white children use the playground. Colored children use it after hours, and during regular hours whenever the supervisor does not chase them off.

When the supervisor's back is turned the white and colored children play together, but the supervisor never permits this when he can help it. Sat.

Dog in the manger, the white children don't want the playground, but the supervisor won't let the colored children use it.

So it stands idle as long as it is officially open, and becomes a real playground only after the supervisor has closed up and gone home, and the colored children take over.

"Radical" Suggestion

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare has petitioned that the playground be opened to all children; but the Department of Recreation is horrified at such a radical suggestion — and is probably sniffing about, sure that nobody but a communist could make such a radical suggestion.

The Recreation officials talk ponderously about colored residents constituting a new community and about natural lags in establishing community services in newly settled neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, colored children play in the streets, exposed to traffic hazards, and have to make their own recreation.

The Department of Recreation is all wrong. It was not set up to furnish recreation and play facilities for white children and colored children, but for individual children regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

Individual Rights

Constitutional rights are individual rights, and do not depend on volume or numbers. A citizen pays his taxes as an individual, votes as an individual, is drafted for the defense of his country as an individual. 10-4-47

These are individual duties in exchange for which the government owes the citizen individual protection equal to that accorded any other citizen.

As long as a single colored child is denied equal playground facilities the law is being violated. There is only one government, only one public treasury.

There can be only one ownership of public lands and facilities the ownership of the people as a whole. In the past the word "people" in the South has been taken to mean "white people."

It is our job to make it mean what it should mean "all the people." This thing of colored children standing around outside a fence watching white children have exclusive enjoyment of public play facilities has got to end.

If the Department of Recreation will not see the light, it is going to be necessary to take it to court and teach it a lesson in democracy.

44 1947

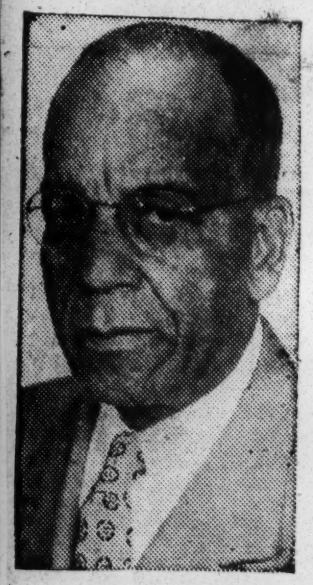
Resorts (Illinois)

THROUGH THE YEARS

By FAY YOUNG

Chicago Defender

OUR FIRST TRIP TO KANKAKEE Shores golf course — and of course to the beautiful country club which sits on the winding Kankakee river not far from Sunset Hills Country Club and the Sunset Hills Gun Club—was Tuesday to the Open Golf Tournament in which Joe Louis, the world heavyweight champion, was playing as an amateur.



FAY YOUNG

In all our years, we have never seen any place catering wholly or in part to Negroes, that is as fine and elaborate as is this place. The clubhouse, the dining rooms, the hotel and the cottages are superb. The club is built on the edge of 1,500 acres of which 350 comprise the 18-hole golf course.

* * *

IT WAS THE OLD HIELAND Country club, built 19 years ago by the late publisher of a Hammond, Ind., newspaper. After his untimely death, the result of an automobile accident, attorneys for his estate sold the country club. The buyers were the Methodist Episcopal Church Board of Missions. Negroes, we understand, raised some $25,000 of the money with the idea of making the place a retreat for aged and retired M. E. ministers.

Whether the buyers figured the aged M. E. ministers or the M. E. laymen would be interested in golf or not we haven't been able to learn.

But the sad part of the whole affair is that Negroes are about to lose the finest place of recreation—and rest—that they have ever had the opportunity to be connected with. There is a $75,000 mortgage on the setup. The good white people in Kankakee admit the finest of relationship exists between the townsfolk and the Negroes who come there. In fact, these white people claim the place is run better than ever before. Six of every eight golfers on weekdays are white people.

* * * 9-20-47

HOWEVER, THERE IS A disturbing element in Kankakee. Some whites want to buy in the 1,500 acres including the golf course and divide it up into lots for homes facing the river—for white people only. There is a rumor being passed on to the Methodist board in Philadelphia that these designing whites believe there will be racial trouble if Negroes continue to use the place. Added to this rumor is one—put out with the intention to scare—that the state of Illinois plans to condemn the property and turn it into a state park.

These rumors have thrown a fear into the board members including a Negro bishop named Kelly from East St. Louis who could and who may or may not save the day. He can "fight" to keep the place or he can sit idly by, because his future is assured—and let the place be sold to the prospective white buyers.

* * * Sat. Ill.

IF THIS PLACE IS sold and is split up or even run as a country club for whites only, it will be a black eye to the Negro race. Only quite recently Aaron Payne, Chicago attorney representing several Negro laymen, got an injunction temporarily halting the sale because of some legal technicality.

A citizen's committee SHOULD be formed at once. If the church wants to sell, then buy out the church and finally buy out what part the laymen have with the understanding that those laymen who want to retain bonds or shares can subscribe for the same. The sum will be $350,000, $250,000 going to the M. E. church Board of Missions; $25,000 to the St. Louis area Negroes and $75,000 to pay off the mortgage.

That and that alone will SAVE the place. At present the Kankakee chamber of commerce wants to bid on the place with $35,000.

The city of Kankakee is threatening to "take it" for a park and then turn it over to contractors to build individual cottages.

THERE ARE ENOUGH wealthy Negroes, Negro clubs and other organizations to buy $1,000 worth of bonds each. It would take exactly 350 such. Or the bonds could be made for $100 each and sold to those who want to have a decent place to spend a week end.

The first mistake was for the M. E. church to get in on it instead of the general public. The Baptists, African Methodists, the C.M.E., the Church of God in Christ, the Catholics and other denominations will naturally stand by and see it go to the wayside. Once any particular religious group relinquishes its control, the others will rally.

Stocks and bonds are sold to the man with the greenbacks. He might be an atheist. No one asks what he does or who he is. He might own 1,000 shares in the Commonwealth Edison company but he doesn't have to eat with the president.

Let's wake up before it is too late. Sat. 9-20-47

Angry Contributors Halt Sale Of Resort

Chicago Defender
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Downstate, last March, the dream of Rev. Edward W. Neal quietly bore fruit. The Methodist church bought 1,557 acre Hieland Golf club and renamed it Kankakee shores. Negro members gave $100,000 toward the purchase. Opening brought hundreds of Negroes and whites to the resort. Then a summer storm broke. White interests in Kankakee demanded that the church sell out. If not, the city was to condemn the resort. Four members of the five-man board of directors were reported ready to give in, when angry contributors won a court order halting the deal.